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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,295	09/10/2003	Daisuke Yoshida	00684.002964.1	2456

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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

PIZIALI, JEFFREY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2629

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/658,295

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA, DAISUKE

Examiner

Jeff Piziali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/505,194.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed (on 17 January 2007) in this application after final rejection (mailed 18 September 2006). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 17 January 2007 has been entered.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/505,194 (now Patent No. 6,670,938), filed on 16 February 2000.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 27 December 2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. Although translated abstracts of the two

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listed foreign patent documents (JP 03-051887 and JP 08-305323) have been provided, no actual (Japanese language) copy of either foreign patent appears to have been submitted.

Specification

4. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiroki (US 6,628,253 B1).

Regarding claim 8, Hiroki discloses a liquid crystal apparatus, comprising: a liquid crystal device [Fig. 1; 101] comprising an active matrix substrate (see Column 1, Lines 8-12) having thereon a plurality of signal lines [Fig. 1; 103] arranged in columns, a plurality of scanning lines [Fig. 1; 102] arranged in rows, and pixel electrodes [Fig. 5A; A, B, C] each connected via a pixel switch [Fig. 2A; TFTs] to an intersection of the signal lines and the scanning lines so as to supply picture signals to the pixel electrodes via the signal lines, a counter

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substrate disposed opposite to the active matrix substrate, and a liquid crystal disposed between the active matrix substrate and the counter substrate (see Column 6, Line 63 - Column 7, Line 6), and drive means [Fig. 1; 105] for driving the liquid crystal device, wherein said drive means includes: a first common signal line [Fig. 2A; 129 output] and a second common signal line [Fig. 2A; 130 output] for supplying the picture signals to each of the plurality of signal lines, picture signal-supplying means [Fig. 2A; 129, 130] for supplying picture signals of one polarity [Fig. 4; 129] to the first common signal line and picture signals of the other polarity [Fig. 4; 130] to the second common signal line, first transfer switches [Fig. 2A; CMOS circuitry within the 'Sampling Circuit and Buffer Circuit' for odd numbered signal lines] each for connecting a respective column signal line with the first common signal line for selectively supplying one of the picture signals of one polarity to the column signal line, and second transfer switches [Fig. 2A; TFTs] each for connecting a respective column signal line with the second common signal line for selectively supplying one of the picture signals of other polarity to the column signal line, wherein each respective column signal line is connected to a respective first transfer switch and a respective second transfer switch (see Column 8, Line 49 - Column 9, Line 19), and column inversion [Figs. 11A, 11B, 11C] drive means for: in a first frame [Fig. 4; '1 Frame'], selectively turning on the first transfer switches for odd-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 1, 3] and the second transfer switches for even-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 2, 4], and in a second frame [Fig. 4; 'Next Frame'], selectively turning on the second transfer switches for odd-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 1, 3] and the first transfer switches for even-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 2, 4] (see Column 11, Line 49 - Column 12, Line 9).

Regarding claim 9, this claim is rejected by the reasoning applied in rejecting claim 8; furthermore, Hiroki discloses a dot inversion [Fig. 12C] drive means for: in a first frame [Fig. 4; '1 Frame'], selectively turning on the first transfer switches for odd-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 1, 3] and the second transfer switches for even-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 2, 4] at the time of scanning odd-numbered scanning lines [Fig. 2A; Scan Lines A & C], and selectively turning on the second transfer switches for odd-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 1, 3] and the first transfer switches for even-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 2, 4] at the time of scanning even-numbered scanning lines [Fig. 2A; Scan Lines B & D]; and in a second frame [Fig. 4; 'Next Frame'], selectively turning on the second transfer switches for odd-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 1, 3] and the first transfer switches for even-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 2, 4] at the time of scanning odd-numbered scanning lines [Fig. 2A; Scan Lines A & C], and selectively turning on the first transfer switches for odd-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 1, 3] and the second transfer switches for even-numbered column signal lines [Fig. 2A; 2, 4] at the time of scanning even-numbered scanning lines [Fig. 2A; Scan Lines B & D] (see Column 12, Lines 31-67).

Regarding claim 10, Hiroki discloses the first transfer switches comprise a transistor of a first conductivity type and the second transfer switches comprise a transistor of a second conductivity type different from the first conductivity type (see Fig. 2A; Column 10, Lines 13-29 -- in particular, see the CMOS circuitry within the 'Sampling Circuit and Buffer Circuit').

Regarding claim 11, Hiroki discloses the picture signal supply means includes first [Fig. 2A; 129] and second [Fig. 2A; 130] picture signal-generating means for generating positive-polarity picture signals [Fig. 4; 129] and negative-polarity picture signals [Fig. 4; 130], respectively, supplied to the first and second common signal lines, respectively; the first picture signal generating means generate picture signals in a range between a highest voltage and a central voltage supplied to the pixel electrodes (see Fig. 4; Column 11, Line 49 - Column 12, Line 9); the second picture signal-generating means generates picture signals in a range between the central voltage and a lowest voltage supplied to the pixel electrodes; the first and second picture signal-generating means are operated at different supply voltages; the supply voltages for the first picture signal-generating means are set to be the highest voltage + α and the central voltage - α ; and the supply voltages for the second picture signal-generating means are set to be the central voltage + α and the lowest voltage - α , wherein α denotes α voltage lowering margin due to an internal resistance in the picture signal-generating means (see Column 10, Line 34 - Column 11, Line 3).

Regarding claim 12, Hiroki discloses α is in the range of 0 volt to 1 volt (see Fig. 4; Column 10, Line 34 - Column 11, Line 3).

Regarding claim 13, Hiroki discloses the first and second transfer switches and the picture signal supply means are disposed on a common substrate with the active matrix substrate (see Column 8, Lines 8-16).

Regarding claim 14, Hiroki discloses the active matrix substrate comprises an insulating substrate (see Column 8, Lines 25-41).

Regarding claim 15, Hiroki discloses the active matrix substrate comprises a single crystal substrate (see Column 8, Lines 25-41).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 17 January 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicants contend the cited prior art of Hiroki (US 6,628,253 B1) neglects disclosing, "*signals of opposite polarity connected to [column lines] by first and second switches as specifically required in Claims 8 and 9*" (see Page 8 of the 'Amendment' filed 17 January 2007).

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the first and second switch structures illustrated in Figure 11) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

To the matter of actual claimed subject matter, Hiroki does indeed disclose first transfer switches [Fig. 2A; CMOS circuitry within the 'Sampling Circuit and Buffer Circuit' for odd numbered signal lines] each for connecting a respective column signal line [Fig. 2A; signal lines] with the first common signal line [Fig. 2A; 129 output] for selectively supplying one of the

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picture signals of one polarity to the column signal line, and second transfer switches [Fig. 2A; pixel TFTs] each for connecting a respective column signal line with the second common signal line [Fig. 2A; 130 output] for selectively supplying one of the picture signals of other polarity to the column signal line, wherein each respective column signal line is connected to a respective first transfer switch and a respective second transfer switch (see Column 8, Line 49 - Column 9, Line 19), as instantly claimed.

By such reasoning, rejection of the claims is deemed proper, necessary, and thereby maintained at this time.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeff Piziali whose telephone number is (571) 272-7678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (6:30AM - 3PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jeff Piziali
5 March 2007